

June 2020

Volume 23, Issue 04

2020 Upcoming Meetings:

June 3 cancelled. Note: NO MEETING July 1, it's moved to July 8 re holiday. Next Aug. 5, Sep. 2nd, followed by Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2nd. No meetings January and February. So first meeting in 2021 will be Mar. 3rd.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., meeting starts 7 p.m., at the Rockwood Public Library (inside Eramosa Community Centre) at 85 Christie Street (near corner Christie Street and Main Street North Wellington Road 27, Rockwood, On. N0B 2K0.

2019 Annual Membership Fee:

Regular \$10
Couple \$12
Junior (14 to age 18) \$5
Under 14 Free

Membership / Treasurer Contact:

c/o: Scott Douglas, 273 Mill St. E., Acton, On. L7J 1J7,
Ph: (519) 853-3812,

E-mail:
sdouglas333@gmail.com

Guelph Saturday Coin Show Dates:

2020-September 26th

2021-April 24th
2021-September 25th

2022-April 23rd
2022-September 24th

Are you attending?

☒ YES, I WILL BE THERE

☐ NO

THE WELLINGTON CIRCULAR

QPA 2017 Club of the Year



South Wellington Coin Society Monthly Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING DATE:
UNKNOWN UNTIL
PANDEMIC HAS
CLEARED**

**IN THE MEANTIME:
ENJOY YOUR
COLLECTION, CALL
FRIENDS, LAUGH AND
SMILE**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Send an email to your Editor and share what you've been up to while this pandemic social distancing has been in place.

A friend (**Bob Fritsch**) revisited his collection, the portions that had been stored away for years, and was surprised to see what was there – the collection and photos of fun times.

Our President (**Scott Douglas**) reorganized his library and found long lost favourites, which he opened to revisit.

Many have been using online blogs, and virtual meetings to keep up on the numismatic hobby. Some are using email and telephone calls.

How are you staying connected?

With all this time indoors, maybe you can write about the favourite item(s) in your collection and email your Editor.

COVID-19 Restrictions

As of May 12, 2020, the Guelph-Eramosa Township anticipate keeping all libraries and city centres closed until the end of June and possibly longer. The John McCrae Memorial Legion where we hold our shows remains closed at this time too.

We are tentatively hoping in person meetings may be able to resume in July but it's looking more like August or September when considering the Provincial Phase-In program for reducing restrictions. We are still hoping to go forward with our fall show. Some numismatic groups are holding virtual meetings and shows and inviting all to participate. Please note if meetings resume, the club may be required to maintain the 6 ft distancing (and / or masks) for a period of time.

Many groups are contacting members to do wellness checks. It sounds like between Scott and Mike, they have been pretty much in contact with all of our members at some point during this pandemic, but feel free yourself to reach out to other members to have a "numismatic chat" as some members may be in "numismatic withdrawal" and need to talk!

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY, KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AND SMILE EVERY DAY!



South Wellington
Coin Society

founded
in 1997



Newsletter Editor

Judy Blackman, FONA, KStE

E-mail:
jblackman@rogers.com

Send pictures in jpg,
files in doc, xls, pdf,
wpd, or email body.



Articles of the upcoming
newsletters are due to the Editor
by no later than the 15th of the
current month.

Advertising space will be
accommodated where space is
available.

SWCS:
Was founded in March 1997.
This medal was issued 2015.



**SWCS is recipient of
BOTH RCNA Club of
Year and Newsletter of
Year Awards.**



South Wellington Coin Club founded 1997

SWCS EXECUTIVE

Term of Office: **July 1, 2018—June 30, 2021 (3 yrs)**

Board of Directors (elected)

(sets officers' guidelines, but not involved in day-to-day operations EXCEPT responsible for ALL education programs and looks after ALL contracts for venues and insurance)

Chairman / Director: **Scott Douglas**

Directors: **Peter Becker, Ernie Blair, Garry George, John Semedo, Lowell Wierstra**
(ljwierstra@rogers.com, **519-824-6534**)

Director of Youth Services: **Peter Horne deus** (YN)

Officers (elected)

(run the day-to-day operations)

President: **Scott Douglas**, sdouglas333@gmail.com, **519-853-3812**
(also is club archivist, historian, and looks after medals)

Past-President: **John Semedo**, johnsemedo99@gmail.com, **519-821-6379**

Vice-President: **Mike Hollingshead**, cholling@uoguelph.ca, **519-823-2646**

Treasurer: **Scott Douglas**

(includes all revenues generated from membership dues, meetings, and shows; and looks after advertising)

Secretary: **Judy Blackman**, jblackman@rogers.com
(includes flyers, other club notices, newsletters since Oct 5 2011, public website liaison, private website webmaster) Newsletter / Flyer Distribution: **Linda Blair**

Other Non-Elected IMPORTANT Club Roles

ALL Multi-Media Needs & Photographer: **John Semedo**

ALL Draws and Membership Meeting Notes: **John Semedo** and **Mike Hollingshead**

Show Bourse: **Mike Hollingshead** and **Lowell Wierstra**
Social Media Show Advertising: **Andrew Fedora**

Auction Chairman: **Lowell Wierstra**
Auctioneers: **Mike Hollingshead** and **Scott Douglas**
Auction Runners: available executive and other members.

Meeting Room Set-up and Clean-up:
All members present



South Wellington Coin Club founded 1997

Mel Will Turn 85 This Year

Some SWCS members may not realize that SWCS member **Mel Brown** will be turning 85 this year. As well, some of you may have thought his name was "Melvin Brown" but he is actually "**Melville E. Brown**". Mel was born on October 4th, 1935, in Guelph, Ontario. A couple of his friends think Mel said he was named after his uncle, and a couple of others, think Mel said he was named after his grandfather. In addition to numismatics, there are many other sides to Mel, and some will be shared here, although he's been a very shy and private person most of his life. Your Editor would like to thank **Mike Hollingshead**, **Charles "Charlie" Turton**, and **Scott Douglas** for helping me in my fact-checking and research.

First our story begins with Mel's grandfather: **Melville James Brown**

The 1917 Vernon's City of Guelph Directory (issued during World War I) lists this information in relationship to the future **M. J. Brown Bicycle Service Station**. City Alderman George M. Henry resided at 67 Durham Street, Guelph, and he owned and operated a business at 63 Quebec Street West, Guelph. This business dealt in bicycles, bicycle sundries, sporting goods, stationery, locksmiths, general repairing, and was also a news agency. As well, some product and service modifications were made during the war years, in order to fill government work orders.

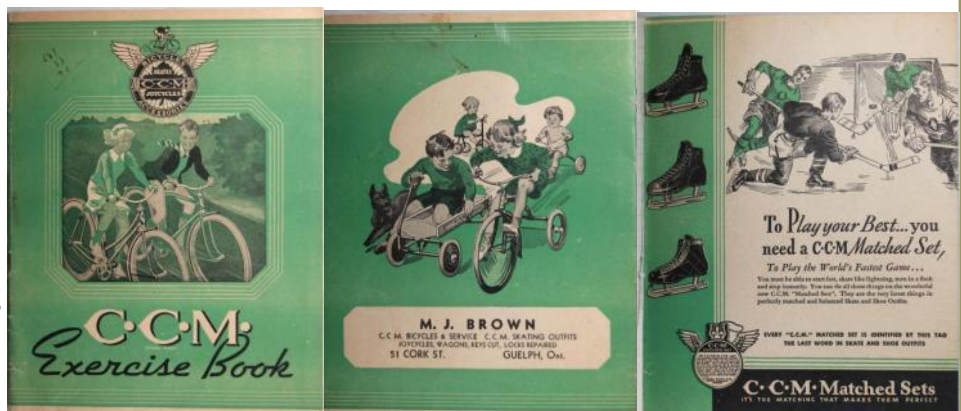
Melville James Brown lived at 7 Park Avenue East-South, Guelph. He was employed as a Foreman for G. M. Henry. He was also married. I was able to view a marriage certificate for **Pearl Victoria Little** and Melville James Brown who were married on Wednesday, May 1, 1907, in Wellington, Ontario. Originally I started this research to see if I could connect Mel's grandparents to a Brown couple who entered Canada as tenant farmers, to later become substantial farm owners in Mount Forest and Guelph areas. Having now confirmed the marriage mentioned above, I now realized the folks I thought might be SWCS Mel's great-grandparents, are not as their son Melville was not married to a Pearl, but rather to a Catherine.

Brown, Melville J, formn G M Henry, h 7 Park av	DURHAM, north side, from 52 Dublin to Yorkshire 7 Harry Winters 13 S R Bailey 19 Mrs M Spiers 23 Wm Galbraith 27 Mrs K Hanlon 29 Arthur Hall 31 Alfred Howard 37 A L Marriott 41 F J Letheren +Glasgow crosses 63 Wm Gellatly 67 Geo M Henry 71 Arthur D Aldous 75 Hugh Fulmer 79 J S McTague 87 Mrs McGill	George M. Henry Dealer in Bicycles, Bicycle Sundries, Sport- ing Goods, Stationery, Lock- smiths and General Repairing. Wholesale and retail agents for all Toronto, Hamilton, Old Coun- try and American Papers. 63 QUEBEC STREET WEST —Phone 398— Henry, Ald George M, bicycles, sporting goods & news agency, 63 Quebec, h 67 Durham, res phone 738 K
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PARK AV (Cham- bers), e s, from 73 Suffolk to London rd 7 Melville Brown 11 Jos Kennedy 15 Mrs M Snyder	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; font-size: small;"> 145 Vincent 150 M Russo, shoemkr 152 City Barber Shop QUEBEC, south side 1 J C Hadden, gro 5 G A Hepwell, jwlr 9 W J Harrison, mfg jwlr 11 W A Stuart, electric shop </td> <td style="width: 50%; font-size: small;"> 61 Ernest E Kennedy 63 G M Henry, bicycles 65-67 Guelph Outfitters 71 City Cafe 73 Lucy Carroll 73 Pearl Shortreed, costumiere 73 W Hallgarth </td> </tr> </table>	145 Vincent 150 M Russo, shoemkr 152 City Barber Shop QUEBEC, south side 1 J C Hadden, gro 5 G A Hepwell, jwlr 9 W J Harrison, mfg jwlr 11 W A Stuart, electric shop	61 Ernest E Kennedy 63 G M Henry, bicycles 65-67 Guelph Outfitters 71 City Cafe 73 Lucy Carroll 73 Pearl Shortreed, costumiere 73 W Hallgarth	
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M. J. Brown Bicycle Service Station was established in 1918. In 1917 49 Cork Street East was vacant (built 1884-85), and the business started there, which was also where M. J. Brown lived with his family. When the plumbing business vacated 51 Cork Street East (sometime after December 1932), M. J. Brown took over that space, and 49 became a Tea Room (but not sure who owned the Tea Room).

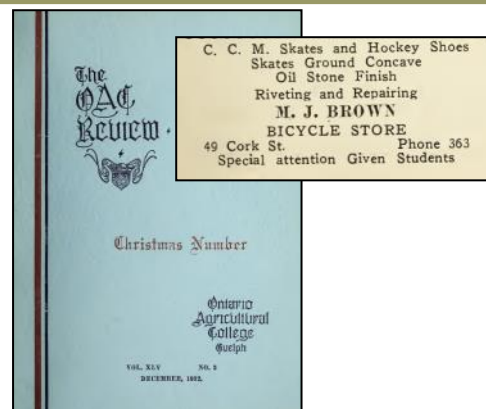
M. J. Brown put out this circa 1940 CCM Skates & Joycycles Exercise Book (Canada), and somewhere in this 50 x 18cm six doubled-sided book it confirms the business was established in 1918. At this point M. J. Brown was the authorized CCM dealer covering a broad area of Southern Ontario, not just Wellington County. M. J. Brown's store is noted dealer then as CCM bicycle sales and services, CCM skating outfits, Joycycles, Wagons, Keys Cut, Lock Repairs.



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We know from the Ontario Agricultural Review of December 1932, that M. J. Brown's was still at 49 Cork Street.

Once M.J. Brown's store is opened, there is no record of George M. Henry still having a business, so either M.J. Brown bought out George but not his building, or George closed the business and M.J. Brown started fresh, but this cannot be verified. Possibly George M. Henry's children (if he had any) were all killed in the war and therefore unable to take over the business. Who knows! Your Editor has not been able to solve the mystery; however, was able to confirm the George M. Henry business was no longer occupying the Quebec Street address or any other address in Wellington County.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, while doing some "wellness check" calls, I thought of the many faces who feel alone, as they cannot have visitors, especially if they live in a long-term care facility (retirement, assisted living, or nursing home). Mel has been unable to attend SWCS meetings and shows for a little while now. For a short time, he was able to come to lunch with **Lowell Wierstra**, Mike Hollingshead, and your Editor. Then soon even that had to fall to the wayside as Mel's medical complications increased. Along with some other folks I know personally, I was thinking about Mel, and thought it would be nice to share his story, and since we won't be able to be with him to celebrate his birthday later this year, we could celebrate now! Mel has been such a vital part of our club for such a long time, and he is missed.

The 1944 Vernon's City of Guelph Directory (issued during World War II) lists these Browns in relation to **Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store** located at 51 Cork Street. Brown's is listed in the directory under both Bicycles and Sporting Goods. George Henry does not show in Guelph at all. Mike Hollingshead recalled Mel saying there were three houses on Young Street occupied by the Brown family; however, Young Street did not yet exist in Guelph. That comes later in our story.

M. J. Brown Bicycle Service Station, Keys Cut, General Repairing at 51 Cork Street East, Guelph, and shows this as the residence of Melville J. Brown married to Pearl V. Brown, and also the residence of school teacher **Glenice Brown**.

Evidently M. J. Brown had a daughter (Glenice) and some sources say two sons (**Lloyd** and **John**) and others three sons, but I was unable to identify the third son (which was likely the first born, and probably named Melville), possibly he was killed during the war, or died prior to WWII from some other cause. I tried to pull up the war records to see if there was a Melville Brown of Guelph killed or missing in action, but was not successful, as many records now require permission of a living relative to access. SWCS's Mel Brown himself has frequently said he was named after his uncle. **Lloyd M. Brown** married to **Rea** lives at 115 Northumberland Street North, Guelph, and ownership is listed with M. J. Brown. **John H. Brown** married to **Doris Brown** is not yet listed, possibly John was away fighting the war, and our Melville E. Brown would only be nine years old and so would not be listed under either Lloyd nor John (as non-adult children were not listed).

109 Scroggie, P. Mrs
115 Brown, M L
121 Binkley, M C, Mrs *
127 Bain, D Wm *
129 Whetstone, G D
131 Turton, Jas
133 Lovelock, John
135 Blacklock, Lloyd
135 McClenaghan, D J
137 Abrams, C E
+Yorkshire crosses
NORTHUMBERLAND,
south side
+Norfolk crosses
14 Kaiser, M, Mrs *
14 Godfrey, A F
18 McFadgen, M J,
Mrs *
22 Frank, B M *
28 Fischer, Eug C *
30 Mino, C, Mrs *
32 Haffernan, Misses *

CORK EAST, south side
15 Durant, C M *
Durant, Archd
17 Forester, W, pntr *
19 Christian Mission-
ary Alliance
23-27 Ford Sales &
Service
37-43 Bond Hdwe Whse
45 Carere, Thos, shoe
repr
47 Guelph Printing
Service
49 Gordon, Eleanor
49 Douglas Tea Room
51 Brown, M J,
bicycles
55 Rudell, M J, dtst
55 Murphy, —
55 Robertson, Geo
55 Leveque, Wm
55 Kimpel, Geo

**BROWN, MELVILLE J (Pearl V), C C
M Bicycle Service Station, Keys
Cut; General Repairing, 51 Cork
east, Phone 363, h same**

**Lloyd M (Rea), with M J Brown,
h 115 Northumberland**

Glenice, tchr, 51 Cork e

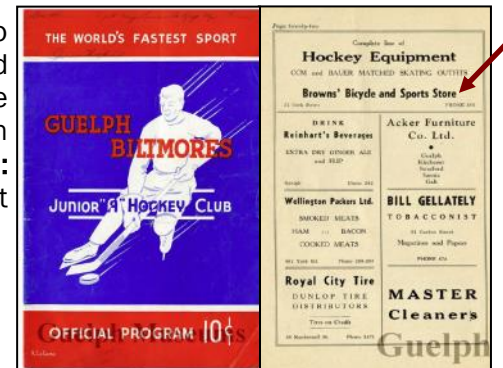
BICYCLES AND REPAIRS
Brown, Melville J, 51 Cork e
Chapman, George, Co Ltd, 1 Quebec

SPORTING GOODS
Bond Hardware Co Ltd, 42-6 Wyndham
Brown, M J, 51 Cork e
Chapman, George, Co Ltd, 1 Quebec

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All other City of Guelph Directories and Wellington County Directories are only available either in hard-copy (which cannot be removed from the library or museum source) or on microfiche which can only be viewed at the source as well. Because these facilities are closed under the pandemic restrictions, you cannot email or phone the research department as the messages at both ends indicate they are closed until further notice. So your Editor cannot tell you when Young Street in Guelph was actually developed. An interesting point though, many of you will remember the late **Ross Weston Irwin** (1921-2003) as a long-standing member of SWCS and a published author of many books. In my hunt on Brown information, I discovered in the last year of Ross's life, he wrote a book "Guelph: origin of street names, 1827-2003, 48 pages" which is available at the Toronto Reference Library, but only in hard-copy. Last year when I was selling off my extensive library at auction, it included four books I had that Ross had written about his family's genealogy.

The 1967 Vernon's City of Guelph Directory lists these Browns in relation to **Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store located at 51 Cork Street**. Pearl's sons John and Lloyd now own the business, which is why at some point, either before Melville passed, or when he passed, the business name was changed from M. J. Brown to Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store and then changed again to **Brown's of Guelph: Specialists in Sports**. Brown's is listed under Bicycles in the directory but not under Sporting Goods.



Here's the three houses on Young Street (pictured above), but I am unable to determine when they were built, and when occupancy first took place. Young Street was and remains only one block in length with few houses on it.

John H. ("Jack") Brown married to Doris and the couple reside at a house at **5 Young Street**, Guelph. Also living at 5 Young Street, Guelph, is a university student **Jas. Brown**.

Pearl Vera Brown (**widow** of Melville J. Brown) lives at **7 Young Street** with her daughter taking care of her. Glenice L. Brown (now 44 years old) lives at 7 Young Street and is now an Inspector for the Board of Education. As you can see, the directory confirms grandpa Melville was deceased, but there are so many Melville Brown graves in Ontario, and I could not find any that had Pearl V. Brown as a spouse. Vera died March 7, 1986 and is buried in Rockwood Cemetery.

Lloyd M. Brown married to Rea and the couple resided in a house at **9 Young Street**, Guelph.

As Mel's mother passed away a while back (around 2007) and she was living with her son in Owen Sound at the time (or in a care centre in Owen Sound), the information of her death has led me to believe Mel's parents were John and Doris, and therefore Lloyd and Rea were his uncle and aunt.

As confirmed by a marriage certificate and the city directory, our SWCS Mel was 32 in 1967 and lived with his first wife **Patricia E. Brown** at 79 Cambridge Street, Guelph, and he worked as a Salesman (for Brown's). Charlie Turton confirmed that Mel did work as a salesman travelling around selling fishing equipment and accessories.

Mike Hollingshead believes Mel told him regarding the three houses on Young Street in Guelph, that Mel's grandparents and his Aunt Glenice were in one house, one housed his uncle who worked with his father who also worked at Brown's store, and his parents were in the other house. Mel often commented on how close he was to his uncle who worked at the store, and that his Aunt Glenice (although close in age to him, i.e. 14 years gap) was like a second mother to him.

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Later Glenice would live with Mel in Milton, and then when they moved back to Guelph in October 2018, Glenice and Mel each moved into their own long-term care retirement centre, with Mel's sister-in-law (Naismith family side) having both medical and financial power of attorney over both their affairs. This move came about shortly after Mel was in an accident with his new truck he had only driven 25km before the collision occurred. Everybody kept telling me to speak with Glenice as her mind and memory are very sharp. Glenice at the time of writing this your Editor found out that Glenice passed away Sunday, April 26th, 2020, at the age of 99 (she was born Thursday, January 13th, 1921, and is interred at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Guelph.

-Bicycle & Sports Store 51 Cork e

YOUNG, North Side, from 65 Rodney

3* Smith, M V	822-7529
5* Brown, J H	822-8318
7* Brown, Pearl V, Mrs	824-6636
19* Blom, Theo	822-3413
21* Cosens, Murray	824-2272
23* Monk, Mervin	824-4963

YOUNG, South Side

4* Orr, Henry L	824-2300
8* Jordan, David C	824-4117
12* Mann, Gordon	824-4811
16* Sibbald, J E	822-9274
20* Bois, Loma, Mrs	824-9848
24* Grant, Donald J	822-6776

John H (Doris) (Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store)
h 5 Young

--Lloyd M (Rea) (Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store)
h 9 Young

--Melville E (Patricia) slsmn Brown's Bicycle &
Sports 79 Cambridge

Pearl V (wid Melville) h 7 Young

Glenice insp Bd of Educ 7 Young

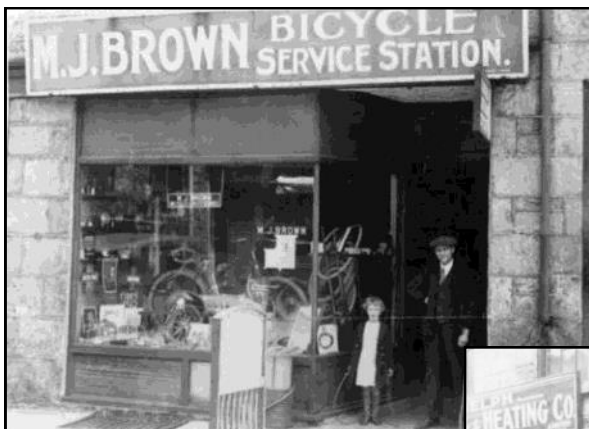
Jas studt 5 Young

SPORTING GOODS

CHAPMAN, GEORGE, CO LIMITED, THE, 19
Macdonnell & 8 Carden
FIRESTONE STORES, 45 Yarmouth
Frank's Wholesale Sporting Goods, 327 Woodlawn
road w
Guelph Elastic Hosiery Co Ltd (mfrs), 40
Northumberland
Lloyd's Cycle Shop, 8 Clearview
Protex Athletic Equipment Co Ltd, 40 Northumberland

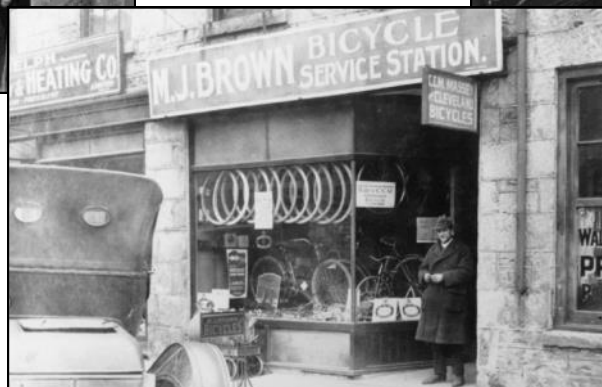
BICYCLES

Brown's Bicycle & Sports Store, 51 Cork e
CHAPMAN, GEORGE, CO LIMITED, THE, 19
Macdonnell and 8 Carden
Lloyd's Cycle Shop, Clearview av



In the photo *right* is
John and Lloyd →

←In the photo *left*
is Glenice with a
skipping rope



BROWN'S BICYCLE STORE
For good Hockey Shoes and
Automobile Skates
Concave Sharpened, Oil Finish, Gen-
eral Repair Work.
49 CORK ST. PHONE 363

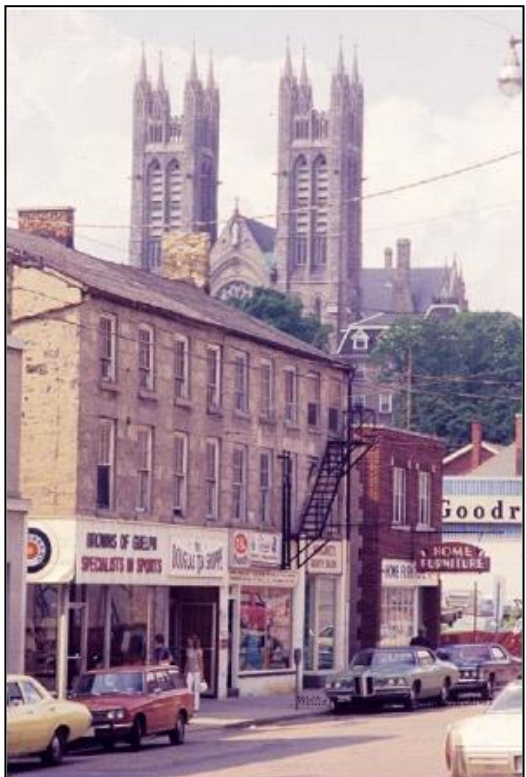
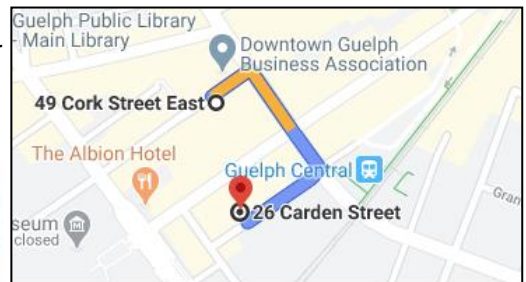
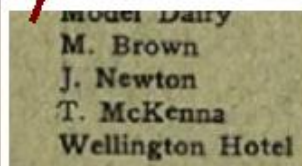


Photo June 20, 1973, Wellington County
Museum Archives:
Browns of Guelph: Specialists in Sports



c. 1935 calendar missing, as it was attached at the bottom



Photo July 1967, Wellington County Museum Archives:
Browns' Bicycles Sports

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Now looking at the 1970 directory, many changes have taken place: **Patricia E. Brown works for University of Guelph and is living with Glenice at 7 Young St.** Lloyd's Lock Repairs owned and operated by Lloyd M. Brown is at 9 Young St. and also another listing shows Lloyd M. Brown, locksmith and wife Rea Brown at 9 Young Street. Glenice is still at 7 Young Street. Jack Brown manager of Brown's of Guelph: Specialists in Sports at 51 Cork St., but lives at **R. R. 1, Puslinch**. There is no listing for Melville E. Brown in the directory so he's moved out of the area. The student that lives at 5 Young is moved out and married and living in an apartment on Gordon. The following year the 1972 directory shows: Glenice working for the Wellington County Board of Education and still living at 7 Young Street. However Patricia E. Brown now lives at **21 Young Street** and continues to work for the University of Guelph. Jack and Doris now live at **20 Scottsdale Drive**, Guelph and he's still the manager of Brown's of Guelph but there is a second manager now, **Mark Brown** who lives at **20 Scottsdale Drive**, so this is likely one of Mel's brothers. It appears this was added under Guelph street index so no longer called R. R. 1 Puslinch (being actually outskirts of Guelph heading towards Aberfoyle which is before Puslinch). Lloyd and Rea are still the same 9 Young and he's still a locksmith.

Moving ahead just four years to the 1976 Vernon's City of Guelph Directory and it still shows 55-years-old Glenice L. Brown living at 7 Young Street, Guelph but no occupation listed, so likely she was now retired. John, Doris, Pearl, Mark, and Melville Brown are not listed at all. Lloyd M. Brown with his wife Rea are still living at 9 Young Street, and Lloyd is running a locksmith business from his home. Patricia E. Brown is living at **29 Glasgow St.** (where she stays listed until she no longer shows up in the directories), and no occupation is listed for her. **Brown's store is no longer in existence.** Jumping ahead to 1980 Vernon's City of Guelph Directory, Glenice, and Lloyd (locksmith) and Rea are still in the directory and at the same address, Patricia E. Brown is no longer listed as residence nor at University of Guelph. I was unable to access any directory past this point as it requires in person access at the source, which is closed during the pandemic. Glenice did go on to live with Mel and Martha in Milton at some point, but was unable to pin down the year.

Whether at the same time as Mel was selling fishing equipment and accessories for Brown's, or later, at least in the late 1980s and into the 1990s, Mel was a certified scuba diving instructor and open deep sea diving instructor. Bill Finlayson met Mel as Mel was his scuba diving instructor. They struck up a friendship and it has landed over thirty years. While Mel was helping Bill at with the Crawford Lake and Rife archaeological dig sites, Bill asked Mel if he and Martha (second wife, maiden name Naismith) would live at a house immediately northwest of the Rife on a property adjacent to the Rife (an undisturbed Middleport village) dig site. Mel would act as security to ensure nobody violated the dig site, and Mel also on the weekends conducted tours to the site. As well, he taught school children about setting up their own digs. Mel and Martha lived in the house for about a decade. Bill was getting the exact dates, but has not yet got back to me. The University of Western Ontario would purchase property surrounding UWO archaeological dig sites, to help prevent anybody from disturbing the sites. Mel was able to live there until the dig was over, when the UWO then sold the property he was living on, and that's also when Professor Finlayson moved on to the next chapter of his academic life. So Mel and Martha bought a house in Milton.



Mel and his wife Martha (nee **Naismith**) (who was born September 2, 1930) (pictured above left) resided at 9065 Dublin Line, Milton for many years. Martha passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 7, 2013 at home. Both Mel and Mel's Aunt Glenice Brown miss Martha who was so loved. Martha was a school Principal, and also built a business making dolls. After her passing, Mel was offered a substantial amount of money for the dolls and more importantly the vast collection of dolls parts (to make future dolls), but it was too soon for him to let any of his wife's belongings go.

Mel shared some history at a couple of SWCS meetings over the years, and also in an interview with SNAP. When Mel was a youngster, he had a paper route in Guelph, and his family operated a sports store. His family and a Whitman folder got him started collecting coins. Mel remembers, "My brother gave me a coin with a hole in it. It turned out to be Chinese. My grandfather gave me a silver dollar. A friend of my mother gave me a shinplaster—a paper bill worth 25 cents. They were only made in 1870, 1900, and 1923. For me, the Whitman folder was decisive. Once you get a paper route, you get coins," he said with a big smile, "When I started collecting, I also placed a small cardboard box near the till at my Dad's and Uncle's store on Carden Street, and staff was asked to put into it any unusual coins that customers

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spent. The store began as M.J. Brown Bicycle Service Station (see these three c. 1920 photos of the store courtesy of the Guelph Public Library archives shows the business when it was on Cork Street), and then changed to Brown's of Guelph: Specialists in Sports." Mel reflected on his father, "When he found the early monarchs' coin, he kept it. I went to the store one day around 1955 (when I was 19 or 20), and found a 1921 50 cent piece. It was me who sold it just a decade ago for \$10,000. I see the history in money, the story behind the coin." We all know Mel has been an active bidder in SWCS auctions for many years, and also loves to have the winning bid in the Daytona draw too! He often discovered he bought something he forgot he already had. With Mel's move a few years back, he had to endure a major downsizing, which included the bulk of his numismatic collections (some of which went to nieces and nephews). Mel once told Scott Douglas that in his earlier life, Mel rode around Guelph on a bicycle with a suitcase containing his coin collection. He also relates that when Mel makes up his mind about something, he's very stubborn.

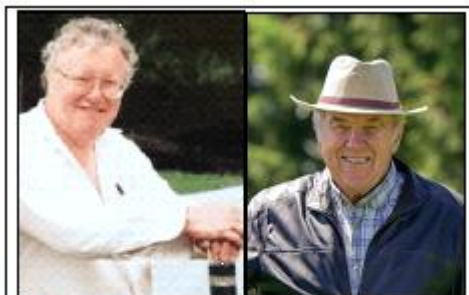


SNAP photo courtesy of David Vautour shows Svetolik Kovacevic (seated), vendor of old coins, with SWCS show volunteers Dan Flewelling, Mike Hollingshead, and Mel Brown.

Again, as the directories did not list the children of couples, unless they were adult children, I have not been able to verify Mel's siblings, however, based on some conversations he has had with folks, I think he had at least two brothers and one or two sisters. Was able to verify that the boys in the family were very active in sports and outdoor activities with their father and uncle and cousins, which included fishing (which Mel became a specialist in) and hunting (bow, cross-bow, rifle). The store had expanded to be able to outfit for pretty much any local sport and outdoor activity. These outings were opportunities for the fathers to teach their sons life lessons. Either after one of these outings, or because of the losses of World War II, Mel moved away from hunting, and replaced it with archaeology and diving both of which he had a real passion for. He liked how he could connect archaeology to numismatics. At one time, Mel had an ancient coin book which got damaged and tossed, and I happened to have two of that same book so gave him one, and he lit up. Later, he gave me a book on Ancient Celtic coins, much to my own delight. Many folks in SWCS are this way, looking out for each other's interests.

Charles L. Turton (Charlie), Earth Sciences—University of Toronto, Department of Natural History—Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Archaeological Society, has citations for at least twelve published research works. Charlie likes digging in dirt, and found out he had this in common with Mel.

Charlie shared, "In 1974 I met Mel when I was helping my friend, and the late **Professor Roger Byrn** (1940-2018) at Crawford Lake. Bill Finlayson was excavating this site which dated back to 1350AD. I helped Roger collect plant samples and examine lake mud for pollen. Mel was helping Bill with the excavation.



Left is Professor Roger Byrn, right is William "Bill" D. Finlayson (senior-most archaeologist in Ontario)

Both Roger and Bill believed that there were several other sites in the area, and they asked Mel and I if we would look for them. Both Mel and I had no idea how you would find them but we worked together for the next twenty years and located over twenty new sites (another story) for Bill's needs but close to forty for all projects. These two good buddies had great times searching for these sites and were so excited each time they located another one.

Charlie said, "Mel was a Salesperson selling fishing equipment all over Canada, and I was a Science Teacher. He was interested in hunting and fishing and the natural environment. One way we located the sites was examining old records of the trees that grew in the area. The forest that had been cleared for agriculture back five-hundred years ago was different than the forest that had never been cleared. At one point, I happened to mention to Mel that I collected coins when I was in grade school and he suggested that I join SWCS — Mel loved Canadian history, and found a lot of that in numismatics. Mel was also a scuba-driving teacher in his spare time. I believe you could write a book on Mel, he is a very generous person who never loses his temper."

Iroquoian Peoples of the Land of Rocks and Water, A.D. 1000-1650: A Study in Settlement Archaeology, 4 volumes, William (Bill) D. Finlayson, with contributions by Mel Brown, Roger Byrne, Jim Esler, Ron Farquar, Ron Hancock, Larry Pavlish, and Charles Turton, Forward by James V. Wright. 1998. London Museum of Archaeology, University of Western

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Ontario is a very notable achievement. However, Mel is most scientifically mentioned for his theory that Canada's Geese dispersed cultigen pollen grains (bird pellets) from prehistoric Iroquoian fields to Crawford Lake, Ontario (which is under the jurisdiction of the Halton Region Conservation Authority). The HRCA assisted in coring, Jane Teranes and Erik Ekdahl provided freeze-dried sediment samples, and the image of the 2001 core. This is published in *Northeast Late Woodland—William D. Finlayson, Mel Brown, and Charles Turton (1989) A Sedimental Journey: Twenty Years of Archaeological Research in the Crawford Lake Area*.

As a younger man learning to hunt with his family, Mel would be in corn fields with his father searching for wild fowl that fed on these fields during the day. His father asked Mel where he thought the birds went after eating in the fields, which led to the answer "they go home to the ponds and lakes". Years later while working with Charlie Turton on the Crawford Lake pollen study, a light went off. If you remember Charlie's presentation at a meeting for SWCS members, you know his focus was on Palynology—the scientific study of pollen and spores, those virtually indestructible, microscopic, but easily identifiable plant parts found in archaeological sites and adjacent soils and water bodies. He so hoped the pollen pellets found would be palynological crystals left by people bringing the corn grains to the lake area, as many centuries ago, people rarely carried corn more than a kilometre from the crop field. Mel, having recalled the talk with his father, was quick to get Charlie off his path of hopeful thinking, and told him the geese ate the corn and then flew home to leave "pellets" at the lake. Mel's theory was quickly supported by Roger and Bill, and Mel is credited with it in the scientific publications pertaining to the study of Crawford Lake.

Berkeley Electronic Press, 2000, UWOJA, Vol. 8, Iss. 1, Art. 9, pg 112 credits Mel with discovering the Chypchar (Middleport village) site. ↓→

The Chypchar Site: A Preliminary Report on the 1999 Field Season

The Chypchar site is a Middleport village site from the Crawford Lake region, Halton County, Ontario. The site was first discovered by Mel Brown as part of an ongoing project in the Crawford Lake region. The Crawford Lake project is a long-term, variable scale archaeological project to determine the prehistory of the Niagara Escarpment area. The purpose of the current analysis was to increase the understanding of the Chypchar site through a continuation of the excavations begun by William Finlayson and David G. Smith.

Rise and fall of Iroquoian culture unearthed locally



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE
Mel Brown examines an artifact.

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

What's being called a landmark achievement for provincial native archaeologists was revealed in Milton last week. Dr. Bill Finlayson, director-general of the London Museum of Archaeology released a 1,500-page book featuring 25 years of intensive research into the lives of aboriginal people who lived in Halton almost 1,000 years ago.

The study, unprecedented elsewhere in Ontario and rare in Canada, revealed 50 aboriginal villages, the largest covering

Rise and fall of Iroquoian culture unearthed locally



The Canadian Champion, Friday, May 1, 1998, page 12, article "Rise and fall of Iroquoian culture unearthed locally" by Karen Smith, file photo by Graham Paine

The Ontario Archaeological Society publication archives, includes *New Series, Volume 10, Issue 2, March/April 2005, Arch Notes* with this photograph by Andy Schoenhofer, with the caption, "The Ireland 2 site in Burlington after stripping by Jack Rooney, October 1998. Working for the London Museum of Archaeology are (left to right) Julia Mannard, Bob Pearce, Les Howard, **Mel Brown** (see arrow), Helen Sluis and Patricia Smith. The semicircular ditch remains after cutting the ring of post moulds in the palisade around the top of the knoll. →



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←This photo on the left is the Rife dig site. I don't think Mel and Charlie are in this particular photo, but Charlie thought possibly.

Thank you Mel Brown for all that you have done for SWCS, the hobby, Canadian science and history, and our community! You are marvelous Mel!



Here's wishing that spring 2020 launches a good summer and an amazing fall (when your birthday happens)! Keep smiling Mel, your smile and laughter are contagious!



Mel Type Humour?

What sort of art do archaeologists like best?

A : Post-impressionism!

Two archaeologists were excavating a tomb in Egypt.

Arch.1: I just found another tomb of a mummified pharaoh!

Arch 2: Are you serious?

Arch 1: No bones about it!

Why are archaeologists greedy?

A : We want archaic... and eat it!

Why did the archaeologist go bankrupt?

A : Because his career was in ruins.

Aside from criminology, I'd say archaeology has the highest body count.

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Two Interesting Asian Coins



Images above, courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com)

The first coin is from Korea. This coin is part of the *Dr. Norman Jacobs Collection of Japanese and Korean Coins* which Heritage Auctions (HA) sold in a September 8, 2011 auction and netted \$6.8 million. This particular coin is a Year 3 (1909) Korean Yung Hi gold 20-won coin, one of just two examples known and the only one available privately at the time of the HA auction (the other example is in a Japanese museum). This one Mint State 64 coin (Proof or Specimen), certified by NGC, realized \$632,500 USD (including the 15% buyer's fee) during the auction. The coin is 900% gold and 100% copper. It has a 28.8 mm diameter, is 2 mm thick, and weighs 16.667 grams. This legendary coin (KM1144) is essentially a perfect strike, with full deep-mirror fields and only a few, barely noticeable, tiny contact marks.

As a young boy living in NYC, Jacobs would search the coinage at a neighbourhood Chinese laundry, and this spurred his interest in Asian coins. After graduating college at 18, Jacobs joined the U.S. Army applying the Japanese he had learned during his school years. He was deployed to the Philippines and worked as a translator and in fact he intercepted documents and provided the initial translation of the 1945 WWII surrender document. When Jacobs was serving in Tokyo with occupation forces, he had the opportunity to grow his coin and paper money collection. Without going into greater detail, his future would provide him more opportunities as he lived in different places and made friends with folks at mints. This future included him getting his PhD from Harvard and later becoming a university professor.

According to the *History of Monetary Unions* by John F. Chown, the first Korean coins (iron) were issued in 996, and during the next nine centuries there were a series of monetary reforms, none of which appears to have produced a uniform and stable monetary system. From 1633 to 1891 the principal Korean money was the copper yopchon (round with square hole). Some parts of the country accepted nickel coinage (J. McLeavy Brown, British head of customs) with duties being paid in silver. In 1891 under Japanese domination, a coinage was introduced based on the Japanese system. In 1897 under the advice of a Russian advisor (Alexieff), Korea having regained independence replaced the Japanese yen system with a coinage based on the Japanese system called the whan, but no coins were struck.

In 1902 the gold standard was introduced, and another monetary reform was carried out. This is when 1 won was equated with 100 chon. The gold 20, 10 and 5 won coins were minted 1906, as well as the silver $\frac{1}{2}$ won coin, 20 and 10 chon coins, copper-nickel 5 chon coin, and bronze coins: 1 chon and half chon. Instead of the dragons and eagles the fabulous phoenix (also referred to as the 'secular bird') appeared on the chon coins. Inscriptions in English disappeared from gold coins. In other respects the design didn't change dramatically. The 5, 10, 20 won coins were identical weight and fineness to their Japanese counterparts, but used a dragon which was similar to the previous generation of Japanese yen gold coins in their designs. The dragon symbol was replaced by the phoenix on the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 5 chon coins when these coins started being produced by the Japan Mint.

In 1904 during the Russo-Japanese war, Japan signed a protection treaty with Korea, and the Japanese system was formally introduced. The Seoul office took over the role of central bank, handing this role to the **Bank of Korea in 1909**. In

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1910 Korea was annexed and remained under Japanese rule until the US took control in 1945, handing over to a Korean government in 1948. This Treaty was signed on August 22, 1910 and was in effect for 35 years. Japanese suzerainty (overlordship) was maintained until 1945 — in view of the fact that Japan was defeated in World War II. The official cancellation of the Treaty finally took place in 1965 by negotiating a special agreement between Japan and South Korea.

The Gregorian calendar was adopted by the new Korean Empire on 1 January 1895, but with the years numbered from the foundation of the Joseon Dynasty in July 1392. Since 1897 the Korean era names were used for its years until Japan annexed Korea in 1910. Then Japanese era names were used to count the years of the Gregorian calendar used in Korea until Japanese occupation ended in 1945.

隆熙三年 Left is the Era of Yunghui year (which is 1909 on the Gregorian calendar. Character «元» is used to specify the first year of the emperor's reign in the date notation (e.g., 隆熙元年: 1907, i.e. the first year of the Yunghui era).



隆熙 Left is the character combination for the coin that is subject of this article, is from the Prosperous Brilliance regency Yunghui era Korean Empire Emperor Sunjong (Yung Hi) ruled 1907-1910. During 1888-1910 there were three eras in Korea, but two rulers: Emperor Gojong and Emperor Sunjong.

The other coin (KM113.1, KM113.2) is a 1944 George VI King and Emperor of India (Crowned head left) standard circulation nickel-brass 5 cents (Rupee) of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). This thin planchet coin has a diameter of 21.2 mm (113.1) or 18 mm (113.2), is 1.71 mm thick, and weighs 3.85 grams (113.1)

or 3.24 grams (113.2). The coin was engraved by Percy Metcalfe. This coin is squared with rounded corners and has a smooth edge. Proof varieties exist in bust, denomination and legend placement for 1945. The date was frozen at 1945 and these coins were struck until 1962. The image here is the KM113.2 and courtesy of NGC. Almost 32 million were minted. An MS-65 has a market trend of \$5 USD. A variety Proof MS-63 is \$300 USD.

Between 1948 and 1972, **Ceylon** was an independent country in the Commonwealth of Nations that shared a monarch with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and certain other sovereign states. In 1948, the British Colony of Ceylon was granted independence as Ceylon. In 1972, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth, and its name was changed to **Sri Lanka**.

The official currency of Ceylon was the Ceylon Rupee. The Rupee evolved from the Indian Rupee, when in 1929 a new Ceylon Rupee was formed when it was separated from the Indian Rupee.

In 1950, the Currency Board, set up in 1872 as a part of the Indian monetary system, was replaced by the Central Bank of Ceylon, granting the country greater control over the currency. In 1951, the Central Bank of Ceylon took over the issuance of paper money, introducing 1 and 10 rupees notes. These were followed in 1952 by 2, 5, 50 and 100 rupees notes.



The 1 rupee notes were replaced by coins in 1963. In 1963, a new coinage was introduced which omitted the monarch's portrait. Coins issued were aluminium 1 and 2 cents, nickel brass 5 and 10 cents and cupro-nickel 25 and 50 cents and 1 rupee. The obverse of the coins issued since 1963 carry the coat of arms. However, until 1966, the Ceylon Rupee remained pegged to the Indian Rupee at a value of 1:1. In 1966, the Ceylon Rupee was pegged to the US Dollar at 4.76 rupees per US Dollar.

More specifically: In 1872, copper ¼, ½, 1 and 5 cents coins dated 1870 were introduced, followed in 1892 by silver 10, 25 and 50 cents. Production of the ¼ cent ceased in 1904. The large, copper 5 cents coin was replaced in 1909 by a much smaller cupro-nickel coin which was square with rounded corners. In 1919, the fineness of silver used was reduced from .800 to .550.

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Between 1940 and 1944, a wholesale change in the coinage was carried out. Production of the ½ cent ceased in 1940, with bronze 1 cent introduced in 1942 with reduced weight and thickness. Nickel-brass replaced cupro-nickel in the 5 cents in the same year and replaced silver in the 25 and 50 cents in 1943. In 1944, nickel-brass, scalloped shaped 2 and 10 cents coins were introduced. The scalloped 10 cents coin replaced the silver 10 cents coin. Later 2 cent coins issued in 1957 were the only coins from this period to ever depict Queen Elizabeth II. Coins with the portrait of King George VI continued to be issued despite his death. In 1957, cupro-nickel 1 rupee coins and .925 silver 5 rupee coins commemorating 2500 years of Buddhism were issued.



'Defend Lanka Your Home': War on the Home Front in Ceylon, 1939–1945

Ashley Jackson

In December 1941, Ceylon was transformed from a backwater into a key Allied military base when Japan went to war, though its wartime significance is largely unknown. The nature of the changes visited upon the island, and the manner in which an apparently insignificant colonial home front contributed tellingly to the strategic prosecution of the war, is the subject of this article. Several key themes are examined: the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and Ceylon; the transformation of Ceylon's physical infrastructure as it became a military encampment; the work of Ceylonese-led departments of state in bringing the island to war readiness; the dire food situation caused by the Japanese conquest of imports-supplying countries; propaganda and public information drives aimed at ensuring local participation in the war effort; the recruitment of indigenous labour for war-related tasks; unrest caused by the influx of thousands of foreign soldiers and provisions made for their welfare; and the role played by the media in conveying war information and propaganda. The article concludes with an assessment of the intimate links between Ceylon's war experience and the coming of national independence in 1948.

In 1963, a new coinage was introduced which omitted the British monarch's portrait, depicting instead The Armorial ensign of Ceylon. Coins issued were aluminium 1 and 2 cents, nickel brass 5 and 10 cents and cupro-nickel 25 and 50 cents and 1 rupee. These coins had the same shapes and sizes of the previous series but were composed of different materials. In 1976, commemorative seven-sided 2 rupee and ten-sided 5 rupee coins were introduced in limited numbers. In 1978, devaluation prompted aluminum to be the replacement of nickel-brass in the 5 and 10 cents, while shortly after 1 and 2 cents were discontinued. Cupro-nickel 2 rupees and aluminium-bronze 5 rupees coins were introduced in 1984 fully replacing the corresponding banknotes. In 1987, commemorative 10 rupees were released which like the 5 cent coin was square with round edges. In 1998 a bimetallic commemorative 10 rupee coin was released. Like earlier forerunner rupee denominations, these were again only issued in limited supply, not intended to replace the corresponding banknotes.

The obverse of the coins issued since 1972 carry the Armorial Ensign of the Republic of Sri Lanka. The reverse of the coin the value in numerals and in Sinhala, Tamil and English below and year of issue at the bottom with SRI LANKA in Sinhala on top. On 14 December 2005, the Sri Lanka central bank issued a new series of coins in the denominations of 25 and 50 cents, 1, 2 and 5 Rupees. The lower denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 cents, although legal tender, are not seen in circulation and not in general issued by banks. Furthermore, the minting of these denominations has been discontinued due to associated costs of production and lack of commercial demand. The obverse and reverse designs of the new coins remained identical to the existing circulating coins of the same denominations. However their weights and compositions have been changed to smaller sizes and electroplated steel as opposed to a solid alloy for easier identification purposes and to save on production expense. On 5 April 2010, Sri Lanka replaced the 10 rupee note with an 11-sided, nickel-steel electroplated coin.

Old As Dirt Quiz shared by Lowell Wierstra

Count all the ones that you remember , NOT the ones you were told about ! Ratings in chart at the right.

1. Candy cigarettes
2. Coffee shops with tableside juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. Party lines on the telephones
5. Newsreels before the movie
6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (Only 3 channels! If you had a TV!)
7. Pea-shooters
8. Howdy Doody
9. 45 RPM records
10. 78 rpm records
11. Hi-fi records 33 1/3 rpm
12. Metal ice trays with lever
13. Blue flashbulb
14. Cork popguns
15. Studebakers
16. Wash tub wringers



If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young
 If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older
 If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age, and
If you remembered 11-16 = You're older than dirt!

You might need a NEW editor as your Editor scored 15/16 YESes! So she's definitely OLDER THAN DIRT!